(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that construction work of road was scheduled to be completed by December, 2004 but it is yet to be completed due to the slow pace of work;

(c) whether Government are also aware of the fact that the State Government had sanctioned that 3 k.m. long road for village Kota, Patti Banelshun but the construction work of the same is yet to be started; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and(b) Yes, Sir. A road, Devprayag-Vyasghat is under eonstruction by the State Government under PMGSY The road was to be completed by December, 2004 but the State Government has reported that it has been delayed.

(c) and (d) The State Government has reported that construction of 3 k.m. long road for village Kota, Patti Banelshun has not been taken up under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

Special Employment Scheme

2450. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has prepared Special Employment Scheme to provide employment to one member of a family in 150 most backward districts identified in the country and submitted the same to Government:

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) A new poverty alleviation programme, National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) has been launched from the month of November, 2004 in 150 most backward districts of the country to generate additional supplementary wage employment with food security. These backward districts have been identified on the basis of an exercise undertaken by the Planning Commission using three parameters, namely i) agricultural productivity per worker, ii) agricultural wage rate and iii) SC/ST population. At least one district has been selected in each State. All the States except Goa have been covered.

(b) The salient features of the programme are; (i) it is being implemented as a 100% Centrally-Sponsored Scheme, (ii) foodgrains are also provided to the States free of cost, (Hi) the transportation cost, handling charges, and taxes on foodgrains are the responsibility of the States, 1 (iv) works to be taken up under the programme in accordance with the Five Year Perspective Plan, (v) Collector will be the nodal officer for preparation of the Perspective Plan and programme implementation, (vi) wages to workers shall not be less than notified Minimum Wages, (vii) wages to be paid through a mix of cash and foodgrains, and (viii) focus of the programme will be on works relating to water conservation, drought proofing (including afforestation/tree plantation), land development, flood-control/protection (including drainage in waterlogged areas) and rural connectivity in terms of all-weather roads.

(c) The programme has already been launched from November, 2004 and Rs. 2020 crore as cash component and 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been allocated during the current year. Against the allocation, an amount of Rs. 2019 crore and entire allocated quantity of 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been released to all the selected 150 Districts.

National Fund under EGS

†2451. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up national fund under 'Employment Guarantee Scheme';

(b) what will be the initial amount in this fund;

(c) the manner in which financial resources would be mobilized for the said national fund;

(d) the details of the authority which would control this national fund; and

(e) whether CAG and Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on finance would be authorized to do auditing of the said fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill (NREGB) 2004 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21.12.2004. The Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Rural Development by the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.